

For Six Month Period Ending 11.7 JUN 1997
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant **BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE** (b) Registration No. **529**

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
**780 THIRD AVENUE
SUITE 1501
NEW YORK NY 10017**

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:
(1) Residence address Yes ☐ No ☐
(2) Citizenship Yes ☐ No ☐
(3) Occupation Yes ☐ No ☐

(b) If an organization:
(1) Name Yes ☐ No ☒
(2) Ownership or control Yes ☐ No ☒
(3) Branch offices Yes ☐ No ☒

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (a waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

- (b) Have any employee or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
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- (c) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes ☐ No ☐

NOT APPLICABLE

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

THE BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE in BRUSSELS BELGIUM

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A³Yes ☐No ☐

NOT APPLICABLE

Exhibit B⁴Yes ☐No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period?

Yes ☐No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits?

Yes ☐No ☐

not applicable

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

THE BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

GRASMARKT 61

BRUSSELS BELGIUM

We promote travel to BELGIUM in North America to individuals, the trade and press.

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
2/21/97	BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE	OPERATIONAL	65,000
2/28/97	"	"	90,000
4/21/97	"	"	68,000
4/28/97	"	"	88,000
6/10/97	"	"	72,000
			<u>\$383,000.00</u>
			Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
FOR THE PERIOD DEC 17 1996 - JUNE 17, 1997			
	STAFF	SALARIES	233,946
	TODD TRAVEL	US DISTRIBUTION	8,888
	JRL/customs	CANADIAN DISTRIBUTION	11,890
	VARIOUS VENDORS	PUBLIC RELATIONS	56,053
	VARIOUS	OFFICE MAINTENANCE	139,795

\$450,572.00
Total

(b) **DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) **DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
 Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE
 GRABMARKT, 61
 BRUSSELS BELGIUM

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials?
 Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Officials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes ☒ No ☐

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4 (b) of the Act.

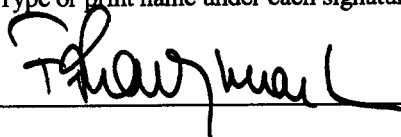
VI--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

JUNE 30th 1997



FREDERIQUE PAEYMAEKERS

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CRM/ICS/REGISTRATION UNIT

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

Inventory of brochures received January 1st 1997 through June 17th 1997

<u>Ben</u>	<u>Name of brochure</u>	<u>Amount received</u>
351	Belgium guide	118,180
350	97 Brussels guide	14,400
303	Tourist map	2,685
352	97 Becib calendar	40
353	97 Ghent info	1,145
354	97 Flanders hotels	4,970
355	97 Ardennes hotels	2,100
356	97 Ardennes camping	320
357	Holiday Village Flanders	275
358	97 Flanders camping	190
359	97 Becib book	300
360	97 Castle Namur	1,025
361	97 Liege Season info	1,800
362	97 Events Flanders	3,150
363	97 Discover Liege	3,900
364	97 Ardennes	3,120
366	Castle Flyer	19,500
367	Belgium Salesguide	1,550
371	97 Rochefort	2,996
372	97 Province de Namur	1,200
128	Brussels map	9,950
368	97 Tourist Attractions	2,310
369	97 Flanders guide	2,480
370	97 Budget Holidays	2,420
374	97 Bruges Hotels	2,300
375	97-98 Ghent Hotels/Resto	2,030
376	97-98 Ghent Salesguide	500
377	96 City on foot	2,000
378	97-98 Brussels resto	5,196
373	Presskit folder	4,860
379	Grand Place die cut	9,900

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE



no ben	Flemish Brabant	490
no ben	Musees Royaux des beaux arts	1,000
no ben	Let's meet in Brussels	200
no ben	Discover Brussels Green areas	100
no ben	Musees des beaux arts Pakhuisfolder	3,000
no ben	Festival Van Vlaanderen	300
no ben	Les etapes du bon gout	30
no ben	97 Events calendar	3,150
no ben	Antwerp Museum Folder	2,250
no ben	Antwerp Salesguide	360
no ben	Knokke-Heist	100
no ben	Ieper	100
no ben	TFPOVL Paris-Brussels Folder	100
no ben	Veurne	100
no ben	Bed and Breakfast	600
no ben	Hotels Spa	200
no ben	Info Luxembourg Belge	200
no ben	Liege brochure	200
no ben	Liege plan	200
no ben	Bouillon	200

Date	Name	City/Region	
01/12-14	MPI - Professional education Conference	San Francisco	AC
1/16	NORCAL/ASTA Travel Mart	San Francisco	AC
1/28/97	EuroSeminars - Europe Express	South California	AC
2/3	ETC Seminar & Trade Show	San Diego	AC
2/4	ETC Seminar & Trade Show	Scottsdale	AC
3/3-5	NPTC	Washington	AC
6/10-11	BTO/BECIB Road Show	Minneapolis	AC
6/11-13	BTO/BECIB Road Show	Chiacgo	AC
6/9	BTO/BECIB Road Show	St. Louis	AC
1/21-23	EuroSeminars - Europe Express	North California	SL
2/11	ETC Seminar & Trade Show	Miami	SL
4/10	EuroSeminars - Europe Express	Wilmington	SL
4/8	EuroSeminars - Europe Express	Cherry Hill	SL
5/15	EuroSeminars - Europe Express	Pittsburg	SL

Press Releases

BTO 1/97;2/97;3/97

6/97;7/97;8/97;9/97;10/97;11/97;12/97;13/97;14/97;15/97;16/97

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BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

Contact: Liliane Menin-Opsomer
Press and Public Relations Manager

BTO # 1/97

CARNIVAL OF BINCHE - AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED **FEBRUARY 9, 10 AND 11, 1997**

Belgium's most famous carnival, the carnival in Binche, attracts thousands of visitors annually. In 1997 this colorful event will take place on February 9, 10 and 11 th.

On Sunday the 9th, the parade of "Mam'selles" and fancy dress groups begins at 10:00 AM. Various processions, heralded by brass instruments, converge at 3:00 PM on the center of town. Monday, the 10th, is devoted to youth groups who form a circle of friendship. Then February 11th, Shrove Tuesday, every Gille makes his traditional march to the town's Grand' Place to perform a dance.

Mardi Gras is the only day one sees the "Gilles" in their various rites from daybreak to the midnight fireworks ending the carnival. The "Gille" is a local carnival character whose hay-colored costume decorated with appliqued lions, crowns and stars in the Belgian colors of red, yellow and black is stuffed with hay and belted with heavy, jangling bells. Most impressive is the white feathered headdress, as much as four feet tall and weighing up to 7 pounds, that completes the costume. Some 800 men and boys of the town throng Binche's Grand'Place and toss oranges to the spectators.

Binche is a small town in the Belgian Province of Hainaut about 34 miles south of Brussels. It has a very interesting Carnival and Mask Museum whose 25 rooms offer a spectacular illustration of this theme in the life of man.

Carnival and Mask Museum of Binche, rue Saint Moustier, 10 B-7130 Binche. Tel: 011 32 64/33 57 41 - Fax: 011 32 64/34 14 30. Entrance Fee : 120 BF for adults and 60 BF for children.

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

Contact: Liliane Menin-Opsomer
Press and Public Relations Manager

BTO # 2/97

THE BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FANTASY, THRILLER & SCIENCE-FICTION FILMS IN BRUSSELS.

From March 7 until March 22, 1997 in Brussels will be the rendez-vous for lovers of thrillers and science-fiction genre films.

Today more than ever, this cinematographic genre deserves that a Festival be entirely devoted to its blooming. Meant for a wide range of audiences, the Festival reaches 47,000 spectators per year and has been in existence since 1983

Sculptors and painters exhibit their works on the Festival premises and theater groups perform in the corridors of the Festival.

For further information contact : The Brussels International Festival of Fantasy, Thriller & Science-Fiction Films, 144 Avenue de la Reine, 1210 Brussels.
Tel: 011 32 2/201 17 13 - Fax: 011 32 2/201 14 69

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE



Contact: Liliane Menin-Opsomer
Press and Public Relations Manager

BTO # 3/97

Flemish Miniatures at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp

The Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp will welcome visitors to the fascinating exhibition of Flemish miniatures from April 11th through June 22nd 1997.

Around the year 1475 miniaturists made innovation after innovation and were copied almost immediately everywhere in Europe. The works exhibited mark the high point of Flemish art in the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

The exhibition gives the visitor an excellent idea of the achievements of the artists of 500 years ago. One of the most impressive pieces is the Mayer van den Bergh breviary known as "el Afortunado". The breviary was the result of an association of the leading painters of the time and is undoubtedly one of the finest achievements of Flemish art.

The exhibition is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm. Open until 9 pm on Wednesdays the exhibition is closed on Mondays, May 1st and May 8th 1997. Entrance fee: 200 BF for adults, 150 BF for students and senior citizens.

For further information contact: The Royal Museum of Fine Art, Leopold de Waelplaats, 2000 Antwerp. Tel: 011 32 3/238 78 00 Fax: 011 32 3/248 08 10

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

Contact: Liliane Opsomer
(212) 758-8130 ext. 4
E-mail: belpress@nyxfer.blythe.org

BTO # 6/97

Royal Greenhouses Open to the Public

April 25th through May 11th 1997

For a very short time the Royal Greenhouses in Laeken will be open to the public. Daytime visits are from 9:30 am to 4 pm and evening visits are from 9 pm to 11 pm.

The admission is free except for the evening visits where a fee of 100 BF will be charged. On April 29th the visit of the Greenhouses is reserved for visitors with disabilities.

The Royal Greenhouses cover six acres of neoclassical rotundas, domes and galleries. Twenty full time gardeners tend the giant ferns, fruit-bearing banana trees, grottoes, glades and grassy vistas. Highlights include the Azalea House, the rotunda, a colony of birds and the orange trees. Walkways are filled with climbing geraniums and fuschias, whose blossoms form an overhead canopy. The visit ends with a short walk through the Royal Park.

For more information contact the Belgian Tourist Office, 780 Third Avenue, Suite 1501, New York, NY 10017. Tel: 212/758-8130 Fax: 212/355-7675

Royal Greenhouses in Laeken

open to the public

1997

Each year during a very short period of time, the Royal Greenhouses of the Royal Palace, at Laeken, are open to the public.

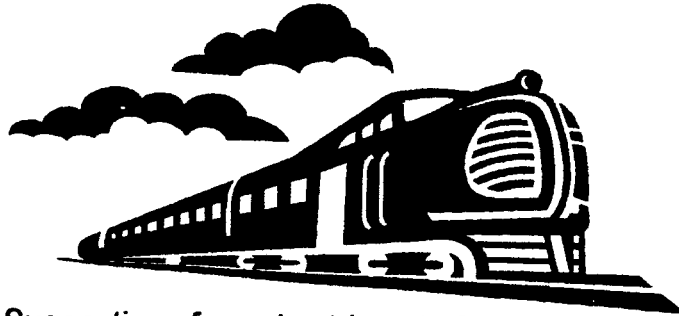
Daytime visits are free of charge. A fee of 100 BF is charged for evening visits. Admission for visitors up to the age of 18 is free.

	<u><i>Daytime visits</i></u>	<u><i>Evening visits</i></u>
<i>Friday 25 April</i>	-----	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Saturday 26 April</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Sunday 27 April</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Tuesday 29 April</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	-----
<i>Wednesday 30 April</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Thursday 1 May</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	-----
<i>Friday 2 May</i>	-----	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Saturday 3 May</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Sunday 4 May</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Tuesday 6 May</i>	9.30 AM to 4 PM	-----
<i>Wednesday 7 May</i>	9.30 Am to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Thursday 8 May</i>	9.30 Am to 4 PM	-----
<i>Friday 9 May</i>	-----	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Saturday 10 May</i>	9.30 Am to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM
<i>Sunday 11 May</i>	9.30 Am to 4 PM	9 PM to 11 PM

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

Contact: Liliane Opsomer
(212) 758-8130 ext. 4
E-mail: belpress@nyxfer.blythe.org.

BTO # 7/97



Suggestions for a day trip out of Brussels

Tournai

The oldest town in Belgium is just one hour away from Brussels. One can experience 2000 years of art and history in its seven museums. The Cathedral of Our Lady evoking a subtle mixture of Romanesque and Gothic styles, is one of the most prestigious medieval structures in the Western world. Other highlights include the town hall, the palace of the old St. Martin's Abbey, a 13th century belfry and the Bridge of Holes. Tournai can be reached by direct train every hour.

Castle and Gardens of Beloeil

For seven centuries the castle of Beloeil has been the home to the de Bigne family. It features an impressive collection of works of art from the 15th until the 19th century. Bibliophiles as well as art lovers, numismatists and historians will find much of interest. The 63 acre park designed in the classic French style is perfect for walks.

Castle of Beloeil, rue du Chateau 11, 7970 Beloeil. Tel: 011 32 69/68 87 82
Fax: 011 32 69/68 94 26. The castle is open every day from April 7th through September 30th. Admission is 280 BF

Castle, Museum and Gardens of Seneffe

rue Lucien Plasman, 6
7180 Seneffe
Tel: 011 32 64/55 69 13
Fax: 011 32 64/55 69 35

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This residence-country seat was built in 1763. Central in a park of 22 acres, the castle stands in the midst of outbuildings, an orangery and a small neoclassical theater. The castle houses a Silver Museum and has a rich collection of European precious metals. Open daily from 10 am to 6 pm except Mondays, January 1st and December 25th. Admission is 150 BF. Entrance to the park and garden is free.

The Royal Museum of Mariemont

Chaussee de Mariemont, 100

B-7140 Morlanwelz

Tel: 011 32 64/21 21 93

Fax: 011 32 64/26 29 24

In the middle of a splendid park, an astonishing museum, where the art of China and Japan compete with that of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. The Museum also hosts a fine collection of Tournai porcelain. Outside, amongst the trees, green expanse and flowers, one will find a group of Japanese bronzes, sculpture by Belgian artists from the 19th and 20th century, and the romantic ruins of Charles of Lorraine's castle.

Open daily (Except Monday) from 10 am to 6 pm - Admission free

Waterloo

Ever since the clash of armies in the Battle of Waterloo its place in history has been assured. Tourists from all over the world come to the battlefield of Waterloo. The Lion of Waterloo gazes from the summit of its high mound across the great battlefield of June 18, 1815, with its farmhouses and rolling fields.

A Visitor's Center provides information and documentation about the battlefield and a short film. For more information: Tourist Office of Waterloo, Chaussee de Bruxelles, 149 in 1410 Waterloo. Tel: 011 32 2/354 99 10 - Fax: 011 32 2/354 22 23.

Direct trains run between Brussels and Waterloo every hour. Duration of the trip is 35 minutes.

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

BTO # 8/97

THE BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE AND SABENA AIRLINES ANNOUNCE COMPETITION FOR BEST TRAVEL ARTICLE

WINNING JOURNALIST'S AWARD WILL BE TRIP TO BELGIUM

NEW YORK - The Belgian Tourist Office and Sabena Belgian World Airlines are sponsoring a year-long competition for the best feature article written on Belgium to appear in a daily U.S. Magazine beginning June 1, 1997.

To be eligible, entries have to appear in U.S. -published daily newspapers or magazines between June 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998. The competition for the travel writing award is open to all journalists in the United States. Entries will be judged by a journalism professor from a New York university.

The winning entrant's travel journalism award will be a trip to Belgium consisting of air transportation, hotel and rail pass. The award will include one round-trip Sabena Business Class ticket (space available basis) from any Sabena gateway* to Brussels, a three-night weekend stay at a deluxe hotel in Brussels and a Belgian Rail Pass valid for five days within a 15-day period. Dates of travel are subject to availability and the trip has to be completed by June 1999.

Participants may submit more than one article to the competition. Entrants retain all rights of publication, but no entries will be returned. Entries must be submitted in the form of a tear-sheet of the published article on or before August 31, 1998.

Entry forms are available from the Belgian Tourist Office, 780 Third Avenue, # 1501, New York, NY 10017. For further information, contact Liliane Opsomer at the Belgian Tourist Office, 212-758-8130, ext. 4 or via E-mail at: belpress@nyxfer.blythe.org.

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*Applicable to U.S. gateways served by Sabena aircraft.

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

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BTO #9/97

THE HOLY BLOOD PROCESSION - BRUGES MAY 8th 1997

Annually since the year 1150, the historic city of Bruges has been attracting thousands of visitors to one of the great religious pageants in Europe, the Holy Blood Procession.

There are two parts to the procession: the first by tableaux and floats enacts scenes from the Bible up through the coming of Christ and His Resurrection. The second part depicts the return of the Count of Flanders to Bruges.

Places along the route of the procession can be reserved through the Tourist Office of Bruges. Tel: 011 32 50/44 86 86. Fax: 011 32 50/44 86 00.

PAUL DELVAUX - A RETROSPECTIVE OPENING MARCH 21st 1997

From March 21st until July 27th 1997, Belgium will honor Paul Delvaux with a large retrospective at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts in Brussels.

The exhibition is open from Tuesday to Sunday inclusive, from 10 am to 1 PM and from 2 PM to 5 PM. Closed on Mondays as well as on May 1st 1997.

For more information contact: Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Brussels.
Tel: 011 32 2/508 32 11. Fax: 011 32 2/508 32 32. Paul Delvaux and the Royal Museums of Fine Arts Brussels on the Internet: www.fine-arts-museum.be.
Tickets are available from Edwards & Edwards - Tel: 1.800.223 61 08.

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FLEMISH MINIATURES IN ANTWERP

You missed it in Saint Petersburg and Florence ? Come and admire Flemish illuminated manuscripts (1475-1550) in Antwerp. The Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp will welcome visitors to the fascinating exhibition on Flemish miniatures from April 11th through June 22nd 1997.

The exhibition is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 am to 5 PM. Open until 9 PM on Wednesdays the exhibition is closed on Mondays, May 1st and May 8th 1997. Entrance fee: 200 BF for adults, 150 BF for students and senior citizens.

For further information contact: The Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Leopold de Waelplaats, Antwerp. Tel: 011 32 3/238 78 00. Fax: 011 32 3/238 08 10.

ROYAL GREENHOUSES OPEN APRIL 25TH THROUGH MAY 11TH 1997

For a very short time the Royal Greenhouses in Laeken will be open to the public. Daytime visits are from 9:30 am to 4 PM and evening visits are from 9 PM to 11 PM.

The admission is free except for the evening visits where a fee of 100 BF will be charged. On April 29th the visit of the Greenhouses is reserved for visitors with disabilities.

PAUL DELVAUX EXHIBITION IN HUY AND WANZE

An exhibition complementing the Paul Delvaux retrospective in the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels will be held in Huy from April 5th through September 30th 1997. The exhibition focuses on the life and work of the great contemporary painter.

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The exhibition in Huy will be held at the St. Mengold Church, Place Verte, and the exhibition in Wanze is at the Chateau de l'Horloge, Rue Basse Voie, 1. Entrance fee: 250 BF which allows access to both exhibitions. Opening hours: every day from 2 PM to 6 PM.

BRUSSELS JAZZ MARATHON FROM MAY 30TH THROUGH JUNE 1ST 1997

During this marathon the whole city sizzles with the sound of Jazz. First rate artists perform in more than sixty venues.

For more information contact call 011 32 2/456 04 85 or fax 011 32 2/460 0136.

QUEEN ELIZABETH COMPETITION

BRUSSELS JUNE 2ND THROUGH 7TH 1997

Belgium's world-renown, annual music event, the Queen Elizabeth International Music Competition, features competition in violin, piano, voice and composition on an annual, rotating basis.

This year violinists will compete beginning May 12th. Semi-finals begin May 19th and the finals will run from June 2nd through June 7th 1997 when the winners will be announced.

The competition is named for Belgium's Queen Elizabeth who founded it in 1937. The competition's "laureates", six of the top 12 winners, will perform in Belgium throughout the remainder of June and July.

Covington International Travel is offering organized tours to Belgium for this upscale event. For more information contact: Covington International Travel at 1-800-922-9238.

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FROM THE TREASURE CHAMBER 1997

AN EXHIBITION AT THE PROVINCIEHUIS IN ANTWERP

From June 3rd through June 29th 1997, jewelry worn by celebrities, kings, emperors, popes, tsars and film stars can be admired in Antwerp.

Most pieces on exhibit will be on loan from private collections and for the first time, the Vatican is making items of religious jewelry available for the exhibition. An impressive tiara, a triple crown with thousands of diamonds, is sure to steal the show.

For more information contact: Provinciehuis, Koningin Elisabethlei, 18 in 2018 Antwerp. Tel: 011 32 3/240 50 11. Fax: 011 32 3/216 41 23. The exhibition is open daily from 10 am to 6 PM. Admission: 150 BF.

HISTORICAL RESTAGING OF THE OMMEGANG PAGEANT

JULY 1ST AND JULY 3RD IN BRUSSELS

Don't miss this colorful medieval festival taking place every year on Brussels Grand'Place. Brussels' Ommegang Pageant is an historical evocation of the festival held in 1549 for Charles the Fifth, his son Don Philip, infant of Spain and Duke of Brabant, and his sisters, Eleanor of Austria, Queen of France and Mary of Hungary.

This year the Ommegang will be staged on July 1st and 3rd from 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM on the magnificent Grand'Place. The festival accommodates 3,000 seating places. Reservations can be made through the Tourist Information Brussels in the Town Hall on the Grand' Place. Tel: 011-32-2-513.89.40

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BTO # 10/97

Battle of Lumecon and Procession of the Golden Chariot **May 25th, 1997 in Mons**

The origins of the Battle of Lumecon date back to a medieval play played by the Fraternity of Saint George founded in 1380. The main duty of the Fraternity was to continue the cult of its Patron Saint, to accompany his reliquary during the procession of the "Golden Car" and to organize plays in the Saint's honor.

The legend of Saint George comes from a story that took place at the beginning of the fourth century. A dragon in a Mediterranean land is requiring human sacrifices each day. One day it is the turn of the King's daughter. George, a young Christian officer, subjugates the monster, ties the princess's belt around its neck and returns to the city with the princess and the monster. The Royal family and the inhabitants are converted to Christianity and George slays the dragon.

On May 25th in Mons the legendary battle between Saint George and the Dragon will be re-enacted.

Thirty-one men perform in the Lumecon and form part of either the Saint's escort or that of the dragon. Saint George rides on a horseback, eight "Chinchins" (his protectors) assist him in pursuing the dragon. The dragon's escort includes devils, and savages. Eleven men support the dragon's body.

The public also takes an active part. The dragon strikes blows at the public with its tail. Among the front rows of the public, everyone tries to grab the monster's tail and to pull out the hair and ribbons as both of these bring good luck.

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BTO # 11/97

Brussels Royal Palace Open to the Public

Brussels Royal Palace stands on the Place des Palais facing the Palais de la Nation, home of the Belgian Parliament, across the Park of Brussels. The Park was once part of the hunting ground of the Dukes of Brabant. It was also the scene of fierce fighting in 1830 when Belgium gained her independence.

Ever since the 12th century when the Counts of Louvain built a fortress on the Coudenberg hill, there has been a noble residence overlooking the Park of Brussels. Later occupants included the Dukes of Brabant and Burgundy and Charles V. In 1731 the Palace burnt to the ground, after which plans for the present neo-classic structure were drawn up, and although the Palace was modified during Austrian, French and Dutch rule, the buildings remained essentially the same until Leopold II instituted renovations which were carried out between 1868 and 1872.

The King and Queen reside in the Palace of Laeken, but King Albert II has his offices here and it is used for state receptions, royal audiences and court ceremonies. The Throne Room is particularly impressive; over 150 feet long it has an elaborate mosaic parquet floor and is lit by eleven chandeliers. Other rooms on view are the Blue Room, the Louis XVI Music Salon with its ebony piano inset with copper and semi-precious stones, the Goya Room, hung with tapestries modeled on paintings by the Spanish Court painter, the Empire Room, the two White Salons and the Mirror Room, paneled in elaborately carved oak with four ceiling-high mirrors set between fluted marble columns.

Each year, during summer months only, the Royal Palace in Brussels opens its doors to the public. Opening hours are : daily from 09.30 Am until 3.30 PM, except Mondays. The admission is free.

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BTO # 12/97

Special Exhibits at the Provincial Diamond Museum in Antwerp

The Provincial Diamond Museum of Antwerp is extremely busy this year. Herewith a listing of the major special exhibitions to be held at the museum:

May 16th through August 17th 1997: "The Jewels of India". An exhibition of hundred of the best Indian jewels from the 18th and 19th centuries.

September 17th through September 21st 1997: "The Tiara of Pope Gregory XVI". On display the Papal tiara containing 15,000 diamonds. The tiara was commissioned in the last century by the Royal Court of Madrid and presented to Pope Gregory XVI by Queen Isabella as a token of trust.

October 31st through November 21st 1997: "The Belgian Diamond". An exhibition highlighting the creations of the Belgian jewellery designer Claude Wesel.

The Provincial Diamond Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am until 5 pm. The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. For more information contact: The Provincial Diamond Museum, Lange Herentalsestraat 31-33 in 2018 Antwerp. Tel: 011 32 3/202 48 91. Fax: 011 32 3/202 48 98. Admission: 150 BF.

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BTO # 13/97

Belgian Formula One Grand Prix in Francorchamps

The dates for the 1997 "Grand Prix de Belgique" Formula One race are set, on August 22, 23 and 24, enthusiasts can follow the annual competition for the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix race in Francorchamps.

The name Spa-Francorchamps undoubtedly brings back memories of great events in motor sports. However Spa is more than that. For centuries, Spa was recognized as a place for cures and entertainment. Today, "Eau de la Reine" continues to come from this very same city of Spa in Belgium.

The race track is accessible to the public from 6 am in the morning on the Grand Prix weekend. Drinks and food are available on the track. For tickets contact: Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, route du Circuit 55, B-4970 Francorchamps Tel: 011-32-87/27 51 38 Fax: 011-32-87/27 52 96.

For accommodations, and further information contact: Office du Tourisme Spa - Tel: 011-32-87/77 25 19 Fax: 011-32-87/77 07 00 For information on the thermal cures: Les Thermes de Spa, Tel: 011-32-87/77 25 60 Fax: 011-32-87/77 50 66.

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BTO # 14/97

NEWS BRIEFS FROM BELGIUM

THROUGH JULY 27th 1997 - PAUL DELVAUX RETROSPECTIVE

Don't miss the largest retrospective of the work of Paul Delvaux. The exhibition honoring the 100th birthday of Paul Delvaux is open through July 27th 1997. The exhibition is open from Tuesday to Sunday inclusive, from 10 am to 1 PM and from 2 PM to 5 PM. Closed on Mondays as well as on May 1st 1997. For more information contact: Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Brussels. Tel: 011 32 2/508 32 11. Fax: 011 32 2/508 32 32. Paul Delvaux and the Royal Museums of Fine Arts Brussels on the Internet: www.fine-arts-museum.be. Tickets are available from Edwards & Edwards - Tel: 1.800.223 61 08.

MUSIC AND LIGHT SHOW ON GRAND'PLACE

During the Summer a spectacular Music and Light Show will take place daily on Brussels' Grand'Place. Thanks to a computer controlled system, more than 1,200 spotlights harmonize perfectly with the enchanting music of Schubert. The Music and Light Show lasts 10 minutes and is performed twice daily, at 9.30 pm and at 10.30 pm. This is truly an unforgettable, not to be missed experience.

TORHOUT-WERCHTER ROCK FESTIVAL

Internationally famous rock groups perform open-air concerts in Torhout (July 4th and July 5th) and Werchter (July 5th and July 6th). Fees: +/- \$45 for one day and +/- \$ 67 for two days. For information call: 011 32 51/58 10 20.

CAT FESTIVAL AND PARADE IN IEPER - MAY 11th 1997

Every five years the picturesque town of Ieper celebrates the Cat Festival with a parade. Some 1,700 dancers, musicians and other performers in folklore costumes or dressed as cats take part in a parade of floats that begins at 3 pm. When the parade is over at 6 pm the crowd gathers in front of the Belfry of the Cloth Hall, where the jester tosses stuffed cats to the crowd below. The day ends with a giant fireworks display.

- more -

CASTLE AND GARDENS OF BELOEIL

For seven centuries the castle of Beloeil has been the home to the de Ligne family. It features an impressive collection of works of art from the 15th until the 19th century. Bibliophiles as well as art lovers, numismatists and historians will find much of interest. The 63 acre park designed in the classic French style is perfect for walks. Castle of Beloeil, rue du Chateau 11, 7970 Beloeil. Tel: 011 32 69/68 87 82 Fax: 011 32 69/68 94 26. The castle is open every day from April 7th through September 30th. Admission is 280 BF

SHRIMP FESTIVAL IN OOSTDUINKERKE

On June 29th 1997 the coastal town of Oostduinkerke celebrates Shrimp Festival with a parade and fisherman on horses organize a competition to see who can haul up the most shrimp. For information call: 011 32 58/51 11 89.

TAPESTRY DESIGNED BY RUBENS

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rubens House and Gardens in Antwerp the museum shows an exhibition of tapestries designed by the master. The exhibition is open from June 28th through October 5th 1997. For more information contact: Rubens House and Gardens, Wapper 9-11 in 2000 Antwerp. Tel: 011 32 3/206 03 50

RUBENS MARKET IN ANTWERP

The yearly Rubens market is held on August 15th 1997 from 8 am until midnight in Antwerp. The market is themed around the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens and his time. Stall holders dressed in 16th century costumes take over the market square.



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BTO # 15/97

ADVENTUROUS TRAVELERS CAN TOUR BELGIUM BY BICYCLE

C.B.T. Tours, a Chicago-based firm, has put together affordable cycling vacations in Belgium. These trips provide the traveler with quality hotels, navigation instructions, detailed maps and complete historical description of sights encountered along each day's ride. They provide a comprehensive briefing on getting around by public transportation and how to cycle safely and enjoyably in this new environment.

As all Belgian bicycle touring trips are self-guided they are not for everyone. They are designed to appeal to the cyclist who has ridden comfortably on day rides without a guide or the requirement of a sag wagon. They have been tailored to appeal to the physically fit, independent and cost-conscious traveler.

There are three separate itineraries to choose from geared for different cycling abilities and traveling interests. They cover the Belgian Provinces of West Flanders, East Flanders and the Namur-Dinant area of the forested Ardennes. The Flemish Provinces comprise very flat country near the coast, while the Walloon Provinces spread across the beautifully wooded hills and valleys of the forest.

Belgium is enormously varied. There are hundreds of castles, towering cathedrals, fine architectural treasures and an abundance of art and sculpture. Belgium, a country of cultural diversity and warm people has a fine public transportation system. The country has some of the best cuisine to be found anywhere. Great care has been taken to provide the cyclist with a meaningful view of history, art, architecture, hospitality and cuisine of Belgium. All tours are scheduled to allow a day or two on either end of the itinerary for relaxing, shopping or exploration of other parts of the country.

For more information please contact: C.B.T. Tours, 415 W. Fullerton Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614. Tel: (773) 404-1710 - Fax: (773) 404-1833

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE

Website release
Special of the month
June 1997

BTO # 16/97

Daily concert at the Grand'Place in Brussels June and July 1997

Every evening during June and July visitors can enjoy a live concert of the European Philharmonic Orchestra on the Grand'Place in Brussels. The concert starts at 7 pm every evening. The orchestra is conducted by Hugues Reiner.

And while on the Grand'Place do not forget to enjoy the enchanting music of Franz Schubert during the Music and Light Show that takes place twice daily at 9.30 pm and at 10.30 pm.

Tapestry exhibition in Tournai June 29th through September 28th 1997

From June 29th through September 28th 1997 Tournai will host an exhibition of "The Tapestry and Textile Arts of the Northern Countries": Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. These countries will present a significant panorama of their national patrimony in the domain of tapestry and contemporary textile arts.

The exhibition takes place in several locations in the city of Tournai and is open every day except Tuesdays from 10 am to 6 pm.

During the 15th and 16th centuries Tournai was one of the most important centers of European tapestry and textile arts. Today, Tournai is one of Belgium's most ancient cities with a rich patrimony of historical monuments and art treasures.

For more information contact the Tournai Tourist Office, 14 View marche aux poteries, 7500 Tournai. Tel: 011 32 69/22 20 45 - Fax: 011 32 69/21 62 21

Three times the dragon gives a long swirl of his tail and knocks over the chinchins but after a fierce fight good triumphs over evil.

The battle will take place at 12.25 pm on the Main Square of the City of Mons. On the morning of the same day a historical and religious procession takes place in the streets of the town of Mons. The procession starts at 10 am at the Collegiate Church of Saint Waudru and ends two hours later, having followed an itinerary that has not undergone any considerable changes since 1804.

The form of the procession is based on the four parishes of the old town of Mons: Saint Nicholas, Our Lady of Messina, Saint Elizabeth and Saint Waudru. Each parish has its guild fraternity with a Patron and statues of the Virgin.

It is in the groups of the parish of Saint Waudru that the chariot of gold that brings up the rear of the procession is to be seen. The chariot of gold is a Louis XVI-style gilt carriage bearing the reliquary of Saint Waudru and is drawn by six horses. The most outstanding ritual in the procession is the chariot of gold's ascent of the Saint Waudru Ramp at the end of the procession. The chariot of gold must go up the slope without stopping and a crowd of Mons people gather behind the chariot to assist the horses in their effort.

For more information contact the Tourist Office of Mons. Tel: 011 32 65/33.55.80